

GROUND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

adopted based on travel time to the wells within the zone of influence. Principally in the northwestern and midwestern states, local communities have developed aquifer protection plans based on hydrogeologic mapping with identification of aquifers, recharge areas, and wellfields.

The Long Island hydrogeologic zoning system is based on an extensive data base accumulated through decades of study of a complex flow system. However, the remainder of the above examples have been accomplished in areas of relatively simple aquifer systems without extensive data gathering. In many areas the available data should be adequate to develop at least first draft maps suitable for the enactment of zoning and protective ordinances. As data are gathered over time, the areas can be revised. In fact, all the programs previously discussed are subject to periodic revisions, including realignment of the boundaries delineating critical protection areas. Although any change in a planning tool can generate controversy, the ongoing nature of programs to define aquifer hydrogeologic characteristics to date has not served as an impediment to passage or enforcement of effective controls.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) has developed a unique water supply protection atlas for use by state and local governments in ground water protection programs. The atlas consists of four overlays for each of the 177 USGS topographic quadrangle maps (scale: 1:25,000) that cover the state. The overlays consist of: (1) sources of public water supply; (2) waste sources including surface impoundments, hazardous waste sites, landfills, auto junk yards, road salt storage areas, and permitted discharges to surface and ground water (160 statewide); (3) aquifer information including areas of equal potential water yield from USGS atlas series; and (4) drainage basins delineating major river basin and subbasin divides. Each Massachusetts community has been issued the overlays to be used on the USGS quadrangle maps specific to their town boundaries. A handbook describing the atlas and providing instructions on verifying, updating, and expanding the information in the atlas has been distributed. A few towns have added contamination sources, such as underground storage tanks. DEQE is in the process of computerizing the system in conjunction with USGS. A sample portion of a quadrangle map with overlays is shown in Figure 4.1. The water supply protection atlas has assisted municipal government in land use planning and water supply management. DEQE has used the atlas in identifying priorities for monitoring enforcement and remedial action programs for its solid and hazardous waste regulatory program.